

Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2017 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room

First Selectman Nina Daniel called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. She was joined by Selectman Chris Spaulding and Selectman Dennis Tracey. Also in attendance were Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz and members of the public.

- 1- **Pledge of Allegiance** - Woody Bliss led in the Pledge.
- 2- **Discussion/decision regarding accepting the resignation of David Finkel from the Board of Finance, effective August 10, 2017:** Ms. Daniel thanked Mr. Finkel for his service. Mr. Spaulding moved to accept the resignation of David Finkel from the Board of Finance effective August 10, 2017. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3- **Discussion/decision regarding appointing Rone Baldwin to the Board of Finance for a term to end November 7, 2017, filling the vacancy left by David Finkel:** Mr. Baldwin explained that he has lived in Weston since 1993 and that he wants to give back to the community. He stated he has a background in financial service and insurance. Mr. Baldwin stated our biggest challenge is what is happening in the State. He said Weston needs to maintain the quality of education and be financially sustainable. Mr. Spaulding moved to appoint Rone Baldwin to the Board of Finance for a term to end November 7, 2017, filling the vacancy left by David Finkel. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried
- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding appointing Karin Giannitti to the Beautification Committee for a term to end August 1, 2021:** Ms. Giannitti stated she would like to be part of this committee that is dedicated to keeping the beauty of Weston. Mr. Tracey move to appoint Karin Giannitti to the Beautification Committee for a term to end August 1, 2021. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried.

**agenda item added. Mr. Tracey moved and Mr. Spaulding seconded to add the following item to the agenda: "Discussion/decision relating to an upgrade of the Code Red system." Motion carried unanimously.
- 5- **Discussion/decision relating to an upgrade of the Code Red system:** Woody Bliss joined the table. Mr. Bliss stated he brought Code Red to Weston. Mr. Bliss said a lot of things can be added to the system such as code yellow that needs to be taken advantage of. Ms. Daniel stated that code red is for emergency situations, not convenience communications. Mr. Spaulding disagreed and stated there were safety issues during the last storm that Code Red

could have been used for, not just communications for convenience purposes. Ms. Daniel stated code red is a serious issue that needs to be managed by professionals. Ms. Daniel moved to appoint a committee of two, Woody Bliss and Joe Miceli, to investigate code yellow, Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried.

- 6- **Discussion/decision regarding response to Attorney Nevas' letter dated August 14, 2017:** Ms. Daniel asked if the Selectmen wanted to comment in response to Attorney Nevas' letter. Mr. Tracey explained the request is that we delay an established Public Hearing and a potential Special Town Meeting on the subject of the proposed dog park. Mr. Tracey emphasized that no decisions have been made by the Board of Selectmen on a dog park, and that the Board is seeking public input. Mr. Tracey said he doesn't think it would be appropriate to delay the Public Hearing. Mr. Spaulding stated that the members of the Board of Selectmen have received many emails about a dog park on the Moore property, and that he too was concerned when he heard about potential wetland impacts. He reminded the public that if people want to make a case about the dog park, then the place to do that is the Public Hearing. Mr. Spaulding stated the final decision about the establishment of a dog park will be made by the community. Ms. Daniel asked Town Engineer John Conte to discuss site line issues. Mr. Conte then presented on the subject of sight lines at the Moore Property with the aid of a map.

Attorney Steve Nevas, who represents people that live in the neighborhood of the proposed dog park, asked for copy of Mr. Conte's maps. Mr. Nevas questioned site lines and soil testing. Ms. Daniel stated that the public hearing is where these concerns should be brought up and that the Selectmen see no reason to delay the public hearing.

- 7- **Discussion regarding a fracking ordinance** -Mr. Luiz explained that the Sustainability Committee recommended that the Board of Selectmen consider adopting the draft ordinance dealing with fracking byproducts. Mr. Tracey questioned the need to establish an ordinance dealing with something that is really not an issue in Weston. No motion was made.
- 8- **Discussion/decision about agreements regarding insurance brokers:** Mr. Luiz stated that the Insurance Advisory Committee has recommended that the Board of Selectmen continue with the existing brokers for the current fiscal year: USI for employee benefits; Marsh and McLennan for Risk Management and Liability, Auto and Property Insurance. The Committee made the recommendation with the anticipation that a bid process be undertaken this Fiscal Year. Mr. Tracey asked if insurance committee voted unanimously, and Mr. Luiz answered yes. Mr. Spaulding moved, at the recommendation of the Insurance Advisory Committee, that the town of Weston authorize the First Selectmen to extend through Fiscal Year 17-18 the current agreements with USI Inc. and Marsh and McLennan Agency LLC, and that the Town go out to competitive bid during Fiscal Year 17-18 for the services the companies provide. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9- Discussion/decision regarding Governor's letter requesting information about reserve funds

Ms. Daniel stated that our immediate response was that we need more time since the request from the state was sent to Tom Landry's old email address. She stated that Board of Finance Chairman Steve Ezzes will be consulted about a response.

10- Discussion/decision regarding Board of Finance recommendations concerning FY 2017/18

budget. Ms. Daniel inquired about the need for the Board of Selectmen to vote on the subject of a hiring freeze and non-discretionary spending. Consensus was reached that the Board of Selectmen would determine the critical nature of a vacant position on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Spaulding and Mr. Tracey each called for facts and figures concerning the Assistant Animal Control Officer position. Mr. Tracey moved, at the recommendation of the Chair of the Board of Finance, to enact a hiring freeze for non-critical personnel, and to delay discretionary capital expenditures, and to delay discretionary expenditure requiring a supplemental appropriation until further resolution of the Board of Selectman. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

11- Discussion/decision regarding approval of Property Tax Refunds for a total amount of

\$7532.56: Mr. Tracey move to approve the proposed property tax refunds totaling \$7,532.56. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

12- Board of Selectmen Minutes approval – July 20th 2017: Mr. Spaulding move to approve the unapproved minutes of the July 20th 2017 Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Tracey abstained. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

13- First Selectman updates : none

Meeting Adjourned: 9:18 pm.

Minutes Submitted by: Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: September 7, 2017